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TEN YEARS OF THE NEW STATE

Board of Information

Ten years ago, the northeastern region of the Asiatic Continent known as Manchuria experienced an upheaval whose full significance at that time was scarcely realized and which proved to have far-reaching results not envisaged even by those closely related to the incident. Before long this had developed into a strong movement for freeing the 30,000,000 people of that region from the oppressive rule of the Chinese warlords as well as from the disturbing influences of the Kuomintang. Thus, in March 1932, six months after the September 18 incident, the new state of Manchoukuo was established, and today she has grown not only into a full-fledged modern State but into one whose enormous wealth of mineral resources has guaranteed her place as a heavy-industry nation. A few months will see this new State entering upon the eleventh year of her life. It may be pertinent, therefore, to give here a cursory view of its development, particularly as an integral part and essential factor in the establishment of the co-prosperity sphere of Greater East Asia.

Iron, coal, oil and electric power may be taken as the four essentials of modern civilization. Japan, leader of the co-prosperity sphere, suffers from lack of at least two of these essentials, iron and coal, and here Manchoukuo is able to make up these deficiencies. In addition to her vast agricultural potentialities, Manchoukuo has abundant deposits of iron, coal and many non-ferrous metals as well as a rich supply of electric power. Indeed, so favourably does she compare with the rest of the world in the matter of natural resources, with the single exception, perhaps, of oil, that Manchoukuo may well be called the second America.

Four years ago, with the object of tapping all available natural resources, Manchoukuo launched upon a 5-year plan of industrial development, a plan which is proving highly satisfactory, especially in the production of light metals, which increased in 1940 by from 50 to 100 per cent as compared with the preceding year. At the same time, projects are now well under way for an industrial and cultural development of the border districts.

Rich veins of iron and non-ferrous metal ores are known to exist in the long strip of territory running from Mt. Changpai on the Manchoukuo-Chosen border to Tashihchiao by way of Tunghua, as well as in the mountainous parts of Jehol, and scientific exploitation has now been commenced. These areas are dotted with numerous mines producing iron, copper, lead, zinc, aluminium, molybdenum, vanadium, gold, silver, asbestoes, etc. Coal is mined not only in these districts but also in the border regions of Tungan, Sankiang, Heiho and North Hsingan provinces, a portion of the output of which is used in manufacturing artificial petroleum at Fushun, Kirin and certain other places. It has been ascertained that there are some deposits of oil at the Fushun coal mine and Chalainoerh, although as yet many difficulties stand in the way of

industrializing that mineral in Manchoukuo. Thus deposits of almost every kind of mineral are to be found in Manchoukuo with the exception of quick silver and tungsten.

Manchoukuo is also blessed with conditions favourable to agriculture; and farm produce, with soya beans as the chief crop, is an important economic factor. The region lying to the south of Hsinking is well known for its abundent crops of kaoliang and paomi, the belt between Hsinking and Harbin for paomi and soya beans, the one lying to the north of Harbin for soyabeans and wheat, and the northern border region for wheat. Manchoukuo is in fact essentially a farming country and it is expected that the volume of farm products will ultimately be doubled to reach 500,000,000 koku.[1] The new State certainly bids fair to play the role of East Asia's granary with a vast system of foodstuff distribution centred in this country, and before long we shall see the day when it can be said that when the crops are good in Manchoukuo the whole of East Asia will be well fed.

With regard to electric power, Manchoukuo has hitherto depended totally on the thermal generation system; but with the completion of the Suifengtung Dam on the Yalu River, hydraulic generation was started on August 1, 1941. And sometime in 1942 the Fengman Dam on the Sungari River is due for completion so that hydro-electric power will then be available in that part of Manchoukuo. The reservoirs for these two dams are both as large as Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, and the volume of power generated at these two places will correspond to about onehalf of the entire hydro-electric power supply in Japan proper. The topography and the river system in Manchoukuo are such that many more power stations on a large scale may be constructed at various points in the country; the resources for hydro-electric power in Manchoukuo may possibly prove to be the largest in the world. With such an abundant supply of electric power, Manchoukuo has every prospect of enjoying an electrical civilization. The natural resources of Manchoukuo, then, are all but inexhaustible and promise a bright future for the new State, although there still remains much room for investigation and research as to the capital, materials, technique and labour to be employed in developing these resources. Hitherto, Manchoukuo has relied almost entirely upon North China for her labour supply and an influx of labour from that part of China still continues to a considerable extent.

The proportion of the amcuntof capital for production raised within the country increases year by year, and, if one remembers that at the time of the founding of the new State every bit of necessary capital had to be furnished from the outside, the growth of Manchoukuo's national strength truly deserves admiration. The domestic supply of producers' goods is also improving apace with the industrial development of the country. Thus Manchoukuo certainly has good prospects of being able to supply her own requirements of machine tools and other equipment.

In addition to labour, capital and materials, industrial development requires leadership and technical knowledge. In view of the supreme importance

[1] A Japanese measure of capacity equivalent to 4.9629 bushels.

of these latter factors, Manchoukuo is now hard bent upon shaping the educational system in such a way as to give the training necessary for such requirements.

The following figures will eloquently tell the story of the growth of national life in social, cultural and other phases:

	1932	1941
National budget	¥ 110,000,000	¥ 2,500,000,000
Tax revenue	99,000,000	377,000,000
Customs revenue	52,350,000	172,000,000
Investments by Japan	1,750,000,000	6,000,000,000
Ditto per annum	57,000,000	1,300,000,000
Area of land registered	.....	77,000 square kms.
Railway mileage	4,000 kms.	10,500 kms.
Motor roads	3,000 kms.	60,000 kms.
Railway freight carried	16 million tons	58 million tons
Railway passengers carried	8,000,000	83,600,000
Post offices	1,600	2,100
Post office employees	3,200	12,000
Telegraph offices	360	790
Telephone exchanges	107	440
Telephone subscribers	35,000	100,000
Radio broadcasting stations	3	17
Radio subscribers	3,000	400,000
Electric lamps	1,200,000	3,300,000
Waterworks subscribers	80,000	200,000
Primary schools	9,000	21,500
Primary-school pupils	500,000	1,800,000
Universities	1	16
University students	300	3,500
Official textbooks used	2,200,000 copies	13,660,000 copies
Opium addicts	1,300,000	500,000
Anti-opium hospitals	.....	150
Cases for judicial arbitration	.....	68,000
Amount of money involved in ditto.	.....	¥ 37,000,000
Bank deposits	¥ 271,000,000	¥ 1,710,000,000
Postal savings accounts	10,600	~~1,340,000~~ 1,430,000
Total postal savings	203,000	130,000,000
Postal savings per account	¥ 19	¥ 89
Motion picture theatres	30	150
Admissions for ditto	500,000	4,000,000
Salt consumption	3,800,000 piculs	7,500,000 piculs
Sugar consumption	1,350,000 piculs	2,000,000 piculs
Bandits	300,000	1,300